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The Classical Weekly

VOL. XV, No. 10

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WHOLE No. 406

ON THE FREQUENCY OF SHORT WORDS IN VERSE

A few years ago it came to my attention that some of the Roman poets use a smaller proportion of monosyllables than occur in Latin prose, while verse, in English, usually has more monosyllables than prose. It seemed worth while to determine the extent of these opposing tendencies, and to discover, if possible, the reasons for them. I have included Greek in the study; it would have been interesting to include other languages, if I could have found time to do so¹.

The results of our studies are embodied in seven Tables, which, in the interests of clearness, are given at once. The balance of the paper will consist of comments on the Tables.

TABLE I
ENGLISH WORDS

Number of Syllables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gibbon, Decline and Fall . . .	59.69	19.29	12.66	6.54	1.57	.26	.. ..
Bloomfield, Study of Language . . .	69.79	20.09	10.45	5.09	2.11	.38	.05 ..
New York Times Editorials . . .	64.53	21.11	9.39	3.89	.86	.22	.. ..
Darwin, Insectivorous Plants . . .	64.8	21.09	10.11	3.46	.51	.03	.. ..
Hood, Literary Reminiscences . . .	66.2	20.09	8.69	3.77	1.11	.09	.06 ..
Goldsmith, Education . . .	67.91	19.79	8.26	3.57	.47	.. ..	.. ..
Shelley, Queen Mab . . .	68.86	22.31	6.86	1.51	.46	.. ..	.. ..
Longfellow, Hiawatha . . .	69.06	24.83	3.97	1.54	.6	.. ..	.. ..
Emerson, History . . .	69.68	17.77	8.20	3.54	.74	.06	.. ..
Longfellow, Evangeline . . .	70.69	23.49	5.14	.69	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Stevenson, Ordered South . . .	70.89	19.23	6.49	2.51	.71	.17	.. ..
Carlyle, Heroes and Hero-worship . . .	71.43	16.23	8.09	3.57	.63	.03	.03 ..
Galsworthy, The Freelanders . . .	71.60	20.31	5.49	1.97	.49	.11	.03 ..
Browning, Pippa Passes (prose) . . .	71.74	20	6.29	1.63	.34	.. ..	.. ..
Milton, Paradise Lost . . .	72.23	19.63	6.17	1.69	.26	.03	.. ..
Hood, Miss Kilmansegg . . .	74.85	19.61	4.43	.87	.18	.06	.. ..
Browning, The Ring and the Book . . .	74.89	17.69	5.37	1.77	.26	.03	.. ..
Goldsmith, The Deserted Village . . .	75.50	21.45	3.69	1.16	.09	.. ..	.. ..
Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer . . .	76.4	17.31	5.03	1.11	.14	.. ..	.. ..
Tennyson, Idylls of the King . . .	79.71	16.40	3.23	.66	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

¹I have been assisted in gathering and arranging statistics by the members of the Classical Proseminary in Columbia University in the year 1919-1920, namely Miss Mabel I. Hart, Messrs R.L. Hunter, R.M. Mandracchia, and R.S. Marcus.

Browning, Pippa Passes (verse) . . .	81.14	15.06	3.03	.71	.06	.. ..	.. ..
Tennyson, In Memoriam . . .	81.46	16.26	2	.29	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

TABLE II
GREEK WORDS

Number of Syllables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aeschylus (lyrics) . . .	22.89	36.06	25.94	11.4	3.01	.6	.03	.. ..	.. ..
Sophocles (lyrics) . . .	24.85	39.45	23.63	9.88	2.03	.14	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Euripides (lyrics) . . .	25.17	39.23	24.29	8.91	1.89	.59	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Theognis . . .	25.54	41.51	22.77	7.31	2.49	.37	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Solon . . .	26.24	35.85	24.70	9.83	2.90	.39	.09	.03	.03
Aeschylus (trimeters) . . .	29.83	39.06	16.74	9.09	2.23	.2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Aristophanes (lyrics) . . .	31.97	35.66	19.34	9.6	2.66	.63	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Sophocles (trimeters) . . .	32.08	36.43	23.25	6.43	1.71	.14	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Euripides (trimeters) . . .	32.4	37.71	20.34	7.86	1.57	.09	.03	.. ..	.. ..
Aristophanes (trimeters) . . .	33.66	33.71	18.54	10.4	2.49	1	.11	.09	.. ..
Lysias . . .	33.94	30	18.6	11.71	4.43	1.2	.14	.. ..	.. ..
Demosthenes . . .	34.74	31.6	18.71	9.68	3.66	1.43	.11	.06	.. ..
Plato, Apology . . .	35.71	35.57	17.31	8	2.23	1.08	.09	.. ..	.. ..
Herodotus . . .	36.11	29.03	21.17	9.63	3.11	.8	.11	.03	.. ..
Lucian, Vera Historia . . .	36.74	27.37	18.51	10.97	5.08	1.28	.11	.. ..	.. ..
Thucydides . . .	37.23	26.03	19.57	11.09	4.71	1.26	.11	.. ..	.. ..
Plato, Symposium (speeches) . . .	37.4	32.6	18.34	7.48	3.23	.91	.03	.. ..	.. ..
Plato, Charmides (dialogue) . . .	40.14	34.77	15.8	7.14	1.58	.43	.14	.. ..	.. ..
Theophrastus, Historia Plantarum . . .	40.8	30.48	17.11	8.11	2.91	.51	.03	.. ..	.03

TABLE III
LATIN WORDS

Number of Syllables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Seneca, Tragedy (lyrics) . . .	14.08	45.61	33.22	6.97	.06	.06	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Vergil, Georgics . . .	18	39.06	32.22	9.75	.91	.06	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Seneca, Tragedy (trimeters) . . .	18.46	44.57	30.69	6.17	.11	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Horace, Odes . . .	18.66	37.94	33.40	8.86	1	.14	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Vergil, Aeneid . . .	18.77	37.08	32.66	10.37	1.06	.06	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Tacitus, Annals . . .	19.77	27.51	28	18.57	5.17	.91	.06	.. ..	.. ..
Horace, Epodes . . .	20.2	37.2	31.53	8.67	2.30	.06	.03	.. ..	.. ..
Livy . . .	20.46	33.86	28.60	13.31	3.31	.43	.03	.. ..	.. ..
Vergil, Eclogues . . .	21.37	40.28	30.66	6.94	.71	.03	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Lucretius . . .	21.68	36	31.86	9.2	1.2	.06	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Pliny, N. H. . .	21.74	29.09	32.14	13.03	3.57	.34	.09	.. ..	.. ..
Martial . . .	24.17	40.31	27.11	6.63	1.60	.17	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Caesar, B. G. . .	24.46	27.77	25.54	15.49	6.29	.46	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Horace, Sermones . . .	26.37	36.56	29	7.11	.91	.03	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Seneca, De Tranquillitate Animi . . .	26.91	29.49	23.26	14.4	4.71	1.03	.2	.. ..	.. ..
Nepos . . .	27.71	32.23	29.40	5.97	5.09	1.23	.17	.. ..	.. ..
Cicero, De Republica . . .	28.29	29.74	23.63	13.6	3.86	.71	.14	.03	.. ..
Cicero, Cat. . .	29	29.91	23.31	13.34	3.80	.57	.06	.. ..	.. ..
Caelius (Ad Fam. 8) . . .	30.03	30.51	21.46	13.2	3.97	.77	.06	.. ..	.. ..
Plautus . . .	30.8	35.81	23.3	8.64	1.27	.17	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Cicero, Ad Atticum . . .	31.54	31.49	23.71	10.29	2.26	.63	.09	.. ..	.. ..
Terence . . .	34.54	34.51	22.57	7.06	1	.31	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

TABLE IV
ENGLISH MONOSYLLABLES

	Significant
Gibbon, Decline XXI.	9.97
New York Times, Editorials.	14.91
Bloomfield, Study of Language.	15.13
Hood, Literary Reminiscences.	16.62
Goldsmith, Education.	16.77
Darwin, Insectivorous Plants.	17.82
Stevenson, Ordered South.	19.57
Carlyle, Heroes.	20.79
Emerson, History.	22.58
Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer.	23.38
Longfellow, Hiawatha.	23.48
Longfellow, Evangeline.	23.75
Galsworthy, Freeland.	23.99
Browning, Pippa (prose).	25.75
Milton, Paradise Lost.	26.36
Shelley, Queen Mab.	27.61
Hood, Kilmansegg.	30.61
Tennyson, Idylls of the King.	30.93
Tennyson, In Memoriam.	32.34
Browning, The Ring.	34
Browning, Pippa Passes (verse).	35.05
Goldsmith, Deserted Village.	35.07
Insignificant	
Goldsmith, Deserted Village.	40.52
Browning, The Ring.	40.89
Shelley, Queen Mab.	41.25
Hood, Kilmansegg.	44.24
Longfellow, Hiawatha.	45.58
Milton, Paradise Lost.	45.87
Browning, Pippa Passes (prose).	45.99
Browning, Pippa Passes (verse).	46.09
Bloomfield, Study of Language.	46.65
Longfellow, Evangeline.	46.94
Darwin, Insectivorous Plants.	46.98
Emerson, History.	47.10
Galsworthy, The Freeland.	47.61
Tennyson, Idylls of the King.	48.78
Tennyson, In Memoriam.	49.12
Hood, Literary Reminiscences.	49.58
New York Times, Editorials.	49.62
Gibbon, Decline and Fall.	49.72
Carlyle, Heroes.	50.64
Goldsmith, Education.	51.13
Stevenson, Ordered South.	51.32
Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer.	53.02

TABLE V
GREEK AND LATIN MONOSYLLABLES
GREEK

	Insignif-icant	Signif-icant
Aeschylus (lyrics)	21.40	1.49
Aeschylus (trimeters)	21.79	1.10
Euripides (lyrics)	23.91	1.26
Theognis	24.47	1.17
Euripides (trimeters)	30.88	1.52
Aristophanes (trimeters)	32.68	.98
Herodotus	35.32	.79
Plato, Symposium.	36.29	1.12
Thucydides.	36.63	.60
Theophrastus.	40.39	.41

LATIN

	Insignif-icant	Signif-icant
Seneca, Tragedy (lyrics)	13.42	.66
Vergil, Georgics	16.94	1.10
Vergil, Aeneid	17.34	1.43
Lucretius	19.86	1.82
Vergil, Bucolics	20.32	.91
Pliny, N. H. 16.	20.83	.91
Martial	22.57	1.60
Seneca, De Tranquillitate Animi.	25.70	1.21
Plautus	28.92	1.88
Cicero, Ad Atticum.	30.37	1.17
Terence	31.57	2.97

TABLE VI
GREEK AND LATIN DISSYLLABLES
Greek

Thucydides.	26.03
Lucian, Vera Historia.	27.37
Herodotus.	29.03
Lysias.	30
Theophrastus.	30.48
Demosthenes.	31.60
Plato, Symposium.	32.60
Aristophanes (trimeters)	33.71
Plato, Charmides.	34.77
Plato, Apology.	35.57
Aristophanes (lyrics)	35.66
Solon.	35.85
Aeschylus (lyrics)	36.06
Sophocles (trimeters)	36.43
Euripides (trimeters)	37.71

Aeschylus (trimeters)	39.06
Euripides (lyrics)	39.23
Sophocles (lyrics)	39.45
Theognis	41.51

Latin

Tacitus, Annals.	27.51
Caesar, B. G.	27.77
Pliny, N. H.	29.09
Seneca, De Tranquillitate Animi.	29.49
Cicero, De Republica.	29.74
Cicero, Cat.	29.91
Caelius (Fam. 8)	30.51
Cicero, Ad Atticum.	31.49
Nepos.	32.23
Livy.	33.86
Terence.	34.51
Plautus.	35.81
Lucretius.	36
Horace, Sermones.	36.56
Vergil, Aeneid.	37.08
Horace, Epodes.	37.2
Horace, Odes.	37.94
Vergil, Georgics.	39.06
Vergil, Eclogues.	40.28
Martial.	40.31
Seneca, Tragedy (trimeters).	44.57
Seneca, Tragedy (lyrics)	45.61

TABLE VII
GREEK AND LATIN SIGNIFICANT DISSYLLABLES
Greek

Lysias.	11.43
Demosthenes.	11.94
Thucydides.	12.52
Plato, Apology.	13.37
Herodotus.	13.87
Lucian, Vera Historia.	14.01
Plato, Charmides.	14.92
Theophrastus.	16.88
Plato, Symposium.	17.5
Aristophanes (lyrics)	17.9
Aristophanes (trimeters)	18.65
Solon.	24.51
Euripides (trimeters)	24.93
Sophocles (trimeters)	25.59
Aeschylus (trimeters)	25.86
Sophocles (lyrics)	26.59
Aeschylus (lyrics)	27.23
Euripides (lyrics)	28.21
Theognis	28.23

Latin

Cicero, Ad Atticum.	16.75
Pliny, N. H.	17.29
Caelius (Ad Fam. 8)	17.39
Tacitus, Annals.	18.16
Seneca, De Tranquillitate Animi.	18.79
Nepos.	19.08
Caesar, De Bello Gallico.	19.77
Cicero, De Republica.	20.51
Cicero, Cat.	22.01
Plautus.	23.35
Terence.	24.16
Livy.	24.24
Horace, Sermones.	27.93
Lucretius.	28.3
Vergil, Aeneid.	31.74
Horace, Epodes.	31.95
Vergil, Eclogues.	32.22
Horace, Odes.	33.39
Vergil, Georgics.	34.37
Martial.	34.83
Seneca, Tragedy (trimeters).	40.38
Seneca, Tragedy (lyrics)	42.65

It was of course difficult to decide whether such locutions as *it's*, *thirty-six*, *wood-shed*, *tantum modo*, *virumque*, *ἀνδρα τε*, and *καγαθός* consist of one word or of two, and whether an elided syllable should be counted or not. Since it would have been difficult to adopt a consistent system for all three languages, and since the comparisons were to be made only within the limits of a single language (English verse was to be compared with English prose, etc.), it was decided to follow the usual orthography of each language. The several orthographic systems are, to be sure, full of inconsistencies, and they are not based upon any scientific principle. Still, each of them is probably for the most part in accord with the linguistic conscious-

ness of the speakers, and this is the ultimate criterion.

Furthermore, the study is concerned, not with the actual proportion of monosyllables used in any particular document, but with the variation in this respect between several documents. Consequently it seemed less important to fix quite satisfactory divisions between words than to be consistent within the limits of each language. As an aid to such consistency, in all cases of doubt the larger number of words and the larger number of syllables have been preferred. Elided syllables have always been counted, Greek crasis has been disregarded ($\kappa\acute{\alpha}\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\acute{\iota}\varsigma$ has been read as $\kappa\alpha\iota\ \delta\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\acute{\iota}\varsigma$), and English *it's*, *'tis*, etc., have been treated as if uncontracted. In all these cases the fuller forms are appropriate to some styles or to some positions, and in Greek and Latin we can no longer determine the limits of the phenomena.

We have tabulated about 3,500 words of each document studied, except that this figure has been exceeded in a few cases. They are usually taken from the beginning of the document, except that prefaces and other introductory matter that seemed likely to differ in style from the body of the work have been passed over. In several instances further definition of the passages studied is necessary, as follows: Gibbon, *Decline and Fall*, Chapter XXI; New York Times, Editorials of February 6, 1920; Seneca, *Medea*, *Hercules Furens*, *Troades*; Pliny, *Naturalis Historia*, Book 16; Plautus, *Menæchmi*, *Rudens* (3,500 words of each); Cicero, *Ad Atticum*, Book 8, Letters 2-10, Book 9; Terence, *Andria*; Aeschylus, *Supplices*, *Persæ*; Sophocles, *Antigone*, *Ajax*; Euripides, *Iphigenia in Tauris*, *Medea*; Aristophanes, *Aves*, *Nubes*; Lysias, *Jebb's Selections*; Demosthenes, *De Corona*; Herodotus, Book 2; Theophrastus, *Historia Plantarum*, Book 2.

Tables I to III give the proportion of words of the several lengths in a number of passages of English, Greek, and Latin, respectively. The documents are arranged according to the proportion of monosyllables they contain. For convenience bold-faced type is used for verse in these tables and also in those that follow.

As to English our preliminary impression is rather strikingly confirmed. In prose the percentage of monosyllables varies from 59.69 to 76.4, in poetry from 68.86 to 81.46. Except for Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, all the prose studied shows less than 72 per cent. of monosyllables; and, except for Longfellow and Shelley, all the verse studied shows more than 72 per cent. of monosyllables. Particularly striking is the difference between the prose and the verse parts of Browning's *Pippa Passes* (71.74 and 81.14 respectively); and between Hood's *Essay on Education* and his burlesque poem (66.2 and 74.85 respectively).

In Latin and Greek the poets are in general at the head of the list, and the prose writers below. In Greek no exception to the tendency has been discovered; the division between verse and prose falls between the 33.66 per cent. of monosyllables in Aristophanes's trimeters and the 33.94 per cent. in Lysias.

As to Latin there are five exceptions. It is not surprising to find that Livy's poetic prose and Tacitus's abbreviated style are similar to verse. Very surprising is the position of Pliny's *Natural History* above Martial.

Strangest of all, Terence stands at the very bottom of the list and Plautus only a little higher. Since the letters of Cicero and Caelius stand next to the comedies, it is evident that the colloquial style accounts for the large proportion of monosyllables in all four. It is therefore probably significant that in Table II Aristophanes's trimeters stand lowest of all the verse. Furthermore, one of the anomalies observed in Table I was that Goldsmith's comedy showed an unexpectedly high percentage of monosyllables. Here, then, we seem to have a point of similarity between Greek, Latin, and English. Familiar speech in all three favors monosyllables.

Now, familiar speech makes large use of interjections, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, the copula, and of such adverbs as *now*, *then*, *here*, *there*, that is, of words which have in themselves small significance, but which represent something in the situation or in the context, or mark the relationship of other words (and ideas) to one another; and many such words are monosyllabic in all the languages under consideration. It therefore seems worth while to divide our monosyllables into two classes, which we may call significant monosyllables and insignificant monosyllables.

In Table IV the English documents are arranged first according to the proportion of their significant monosyllables. As we expected, Goldsmith's comedy now stands among the other prose. Furthermore, Shelley stands with the verse, and Longfellow is separated from the other poets only by Galsworthy and the prose parts of Browning's *Pippa Passes*. It is clear that the predominance of monosyllables in English verse is due to a preference for significant monosyllables.

In the second part of Table IV the same documents are arranged according to their proportion of insignificant monosyllables. Here Goldsmith's comedy stands at the bottom of the list, where Terence stands in Table III. In general, verse is at the top and prose at the bottom, as we found to be the case in our study of Greek and Latin monosyllables. The technical prose falls in the middle of the list, where Pliny's *Natural History* stands in Table III. It therefore seems probable that in Greek and Latin the insignificant monosyllables so far outnumber the significant that they determine the proportion of monosyllables in general.

That such is actually the case appears from Table V, in which certain of the Greek and the Latin documents are arranged according to their proportion of insignificant monosyllables. There are no essential alterations from Tables II and III. Furthermore, the proportion of significant monosyllables is too small to affect the totals appreciably. It appears that the Greek and the Roman poets (except the comic poets) avoided insignificant monosyllables as

far as could be done without sacrificing clearness. The second part of Table IV indicates that certain English poets do the same thing, but Tennyson apparently did not do it.

Did the Greek and the Roman poets prefer short words with high significance when the resources of their language permitted them a choice? In Table VI our Greek and Latin documents are arranged according to their proportion of dissyllables. Both columns show a striking resemblance to Table I, where the English documents are arranged according to their proportion of monosyllables. In all three, prose stands at the top and verse at the bottom. All are headed by a historian, and technical prose is near the top in all. For Latin dissyllables the extreme range (27.51 per cent. to 45.61 per cent.) is almost as great as for English monosyllables (59.69 per cent. to 81.46 per cent.). In a word, Greek and Latin dissyllables behave about as English monosyllables. It seems probable that the Greek and the Roman poets favored significant dissyllables just as English poets favor significant monosyllables.

Table VII, which separates the significant from the insignificant dissyllables, proves that this is true. Just as English significant monosyllables (Table IV) have a greater range of variation than English monosyllables in general (25.1 per cent. instead of 21.57 per cent.), so Latin significant dissyllables show a range of 25.85 per cent., while Latin dissyllables in general have a range of only 18.11 per cent. In Greek the change is small, but in the same direction (16.8 per cent. instead of 15.48 per cent.). Changes in the relative positions of the several documents are unimportant. It is interesting to note that Livy and the comic poets exchange places, so that the former now stands with the poets and the latter with the prose writers; but both in Table VI and in Table VII the three writers show almost identical figures.

English, Greek, and Latin writers of verse (1) usually favor short words of distinct and clear significance, and (2) omit grammatical machinery (prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, etc.) as far as the requirements of clearness and idiom permit, except that (3) works of a colloquial tone require a large proportion of words of the latter class. The whole matter seems to be a phase of the laconic tendency of verse. The contrast, with which we started, between English verse and classical verse in regard to monosyllables is due to the fact that few Greek and Latin monosyllables have a distinct meaning of their own².

EDGEWATER, N. J.

E. H. STURTEVANT

REVIEWS

Translations from Lucretius. By R. C. Trevelyan, London: George Allen and Unwin,

²We have collected a few statistics, on Italian, which indicate that that language stands midway between English and the classical tongues in regard to the nature of its monosyllables and dissyllables. The preference of Italian poets for short words of high significance is evident, but our material is too scanty to show the other two tendencies mentioned above.

Ltd. (1920). Pp. 114. 4sh., 6d. (in paper covers).

The student of Lucretius had available for a long time but a single translation in English, that by H. A. J. Munro. Later, in 1910, came the translation by Cyril Bailey (Oxford University Press), in the Oxford Library of Translations (for a partial list of the books in this Library see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 9.49).

In 1916, Mr. William Ellery Leonard published a metrical translation of Lucretius (for a review of this book, by Professor R. B. English, see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 13.101-102). In 1920, Messrs. George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., published Translations from Lucretius, by R. C. Trevelyan (114 pages). Mr. Trevelyan had previously published an essay entitled Lucretius on Death. The translation before us does not give versions of the whole *De Rerum Natura*, but only of selections, as follows: 1.1-328; 2.991-1174; 3.1-160, 830-1094; 4.962-1287; Book V, complete; 6.1-95.

As the first specimen of Mr. Trevelyan's translation I give his rendering of that extraordinary passage, 3.830-868, in which Lucretius sums up so triumphantly all that he has said up to 3.829 (35-36):

Death then is nothing to us, nor one jot
Does it concern us, since the nature of mind
Is thus proved mortal. And as in times long past
We felt no unhappiness when from every side
Gathering for conflict came the Punic hosts,
And all that was beneath the height of heaven,
Shaken by the tumult and dismay of war,
Shuddered and quaked, and mortals were in doubt
To whose empire all human things would fall
By land and sea, so when we are no more,
When body and soul, whereof we were composed
Into one being shall have been divorced,
'Tis plain nothing whatever shall have power
To trouble us, who then shall be no more,
Or stir our senses, no, not if earth with sea
In ruin shall be mingled, and sea with sky.
And even though the powers of mind and soul
After they have been severed from the body
Were still to feel, yet that to us is nothing,
Who by the binding marriage tie between
Body and soul are formed into one being.
Nor if Time should collect our scattered atoms
After our death, and should restore them back
To where they are now placed, and if once more
The light of life were given us, not even that
Would in the least concern us, once the chain
Of self-awareness had been snapped asunder.
So too now what we may have been before
Concerns us not, nor causes us distress.

I give now Mr. Trevelyan's rendering of 3. 854-868:
For when you look back on the whole past course
Of infinite time, and think how manifold
Must be the modes of matter's flux, then easily
May you believe this too, that these same atoms
Of which we are now formed, have often before
Been placed in the same order as they are now.
Yet this can no remembrance bring us back,
For a break in life has since been interposed,
And all our atoms wandering dispersed
Have strayed far from that former consciousness.
For if a man be destined to endure
Misery and suffering, he must first exist
In his own person at that very time
When evil should befall him. But since death

Precludes this, and forbids him to exist
 Who was to endure distress, we may be sure
 That in death there is nothing we need dread,
 That he who exists not cannot become miserable,
 And that it makes no difference at all
 Whether he shall already have been born
 In some past time, when once he has been robbed
 By death that dies not of his life that dies.

Next, to give the reader an opportunity to compare Mr. Trevelyan's characteristics as a translator with those of Mr. Leonard, I give here Mr. Trevelyan's translation of 3.978-994, and 5.982-1001 (for Mr. Leonard's translation of these passages see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 13.101-102):

Moreover all those things which people say
 Are found in Acheron's gulf, assuredly
 Exist for us in life. No wretched Tantalus,
 Numbed by vain terror, quakes, as the tale tells,
 Beneath a huge rock hanging in the air;
 But in life rather an empty fear of gods
 Oppresses mortals; and the fall they dread
 Is Fortune's fall, which chance may bring to each.
 Nor verily entering the large breast of Tityos,
 As he lies stretched in Acheron, do vultures
 Find food there for their beaks perpetually.
 How vast soever his body's bulk extends,
 Though not nine acres merely with outspread limbs
 He cover, but the round of the whole earth,
 Yet would he not be able to endure
 Eternal pain, nor out of his whole body
 For ever provide food. But here for us
 He is a Tityos, whom, while he lies
 In bonds of love, fretful anxieties
 Devour like rending birds of prey, or cares,
 Sprung from some other craving, lacerate.

But 'twas a worse anxiety that wild beasts
 Often made sleep unsafe for these poor wretches.
 For driven from their homes in sheltering rocks
 They fled at the entrance of a foaming boar
 Or strong lion, yielding up at dead of night
 Their leaf-strewn beds in panic to fierce guests.
 Yet no more often in those days than now
 Would mortal men leave the sweet light of life
 With lamentation. Each one by himself
 Would doubtless be more likely than now
 To be seized and devoured by wild beasts' teeth,
 A living food, and with his groans would fill
 Mountains and forests, while he saw his own
 Live flesh in a live monument entombed.
 But those whom flight had saved with mangled body,
 From that time forth would hold their trembling hands
 Over their noisome scars, with dreadful cries
 Invoking death, till agonising throes
 Rid them of life, with none to give them aid,
 Ignorant of what wounds required. But then
 A single day did not consign to death
 Thousands on thousands, marshalled beneath stand-
 ards,
 Nor did the turbulent waters of the deep
 Shatter upon the rocks both ships and men.

I was much interested in Mr. Trevelyan's rendering of 3.997, *donique eos privarant vermina saeva*, by "till agonizing throes Rid them of life". The word *vermina*, which, by the way, occurs only here, is usually translated by 'gripings'. Munro so renders it. Mr. Bailey translates it by "savage griping pains". But, in The Classical Review 10(1896), 246, Mr. H. K. St. J. Sanderson suggested that "'gripings'... are not the consequence of being mangled by a wild beast...". He thought that, in a hot climate

such as Lucretius would know, the words must mean rather 'worms'. He illustrates his view by a quotation from J. A. Gray, at the Court of Amir, 181:

The next morning on arriving at the Hospital I found Allah Nur only too ready to have his arm amputated. While he had been away from the Hospital, the flies in that hot climate had found access to the sore, and there were maggots squirming about in the joint.

For *vermina* = *vermes* Mr. Sanderson could find no support, except such as was furnished by the fact that the adjective *verminosus* occurs in Pliny, N. H. 26.87, in the phrase *putrescentia verminosa <ulcera>*.

C. K.

Sappho and The Island of Lesbos. By Mary Mills Patrick, Ph. D. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company (1914). Twenty-six Illustrations.

It is to be hoped, as the Greek people come to take a more commanding position in the settlement of the problems of the Near East, that archaeological research at the sites of ancient cities in Asia Minor may be undertaken, and thus new interest may be aroused in America in places and names famous in classic story. The book under review, by the President of Constantinople College, will appeal to those who care for the progress of literature and for the work of the greatest woman poet of all time. A brief summary of its contents will introduce us to Greek melic poetry and enable us to criticize more intelligently modern works which from time to time appear, based on false and distorted views which have gathered about the Lesbian poetess.

Chapter I. The Age of Sappho. In a few pages we have a glimpse of the social and the religious life of Lesbos in the early sixth century B. C., with its frank expression of feeling, intense love of nature, art, song, and music, and of the unique, free, educational life of Aeolian women, so different from that of fifth century Athens.

Chapter II. Some of Sappho's Contemporaries. There were strong men and new forces astir in Sappho's time. The inquiring spirit of Ionia was laying the germs of future science and philosophy. Colonization was spreading Greek culture and city life far and wide. Constitutions were being worked out in Thebes, Sparta, and Athens. The Seven Sages appear; conspicuous among them was Pittakos of Lesbos, statesman, scholar, and poet. Solon, the great law-giver, an exponent of Ionic culture, was a contemporary of Sappho, and may have known her personally. There is a tradition that he remarked concerning one of her poems, 'Let me not die before I have learned it'. Influential on the life of the Lesbians were Lydia and luxurious Sardis, whose kings, Allyates and Croesus, were also Sappho's contemporaries. Archilochos of Paros, though he lived many years before Sappho, strongly influenced her work, and Alcaeus was associated with her in poetry and political fortunes.

Sappho's was the sweetest voice among a nest of singers; the names of Korinna, Telesilla, Erinna, and others testify to the part taken by women in lyric song.

Chapter III. Mitylene. Here we have the author's impression of a visit to the beautiful capital of ancient Lesbos, in its essential features unchanged in the past twenty-five hundred years, though the harbor has suffered considerable transformation. In the distance can be seen the Arginusae Isles, where, in 406 B. C., the Athenian fleet won a famous victory, to be turned into shame by the unjust condemnation of the victorious generals. Eight views are given of modern and ancient scenes in Mitylene, the place where Sappho spent her life and the only spot where she still seems to be a distinct personality. The birth-place of the poetess was at Erisos, some miles distant. A charming account of a pilgrimage thither, with stops at Pyrrha, the home of Lesches of the Little Iliad, where Alcaeus wrote a patriotic song, and where was born Terpander, the father of Greek music, may be read in J. Irving Manatt's *Aegean Days*.

Chapter IV. The Life of Sappho. The few facts concerning the life of the poetess are supplemented by details from the new Sapphic fragments. The explanation of the possible origin of the persistent tradition that Sappho met her death by the 'Leucadian Leap' is of interest. There is given a view, taken from an old engraving, of the Leucadian Promontory, rising to a height of some two thousand feet on the island of Leucas.

Chapter V. The 'House of the Poets'. Whether Sappho received a charter and public authority to establish her 'House of the Muses' is uncertain. To teach the art of poetry, even to the most gifted pupils, would be a hard task. Probably Sappho gave instruction in the arts of meter, music, and rhythm. Her love for, and intense interest in, her girl pupils are reflected in many stray lines. A high standard of perfection was attained in her instruction. When we consider the wide variety of poetic forms in which Sappho excelled and her great repute as an artist in antiquity, we feel how great has been the loss of her poetry.

Chapter VI. The Works of Sappho. In addition to her school of poetry and music, Sappho was a professional writer of wedding-songs, and to this type of poetry many of the extant fragments belong. Her unique position among Greek poets, and the power, intensity, and frankness with which she gave expression to the emotion of love made her an object of attack by Greek Comedy and by Roman writers, and foolish calumnies against her moral character have been reiterated by modern writers. Quite recently Wilamowitz, in his *Sappho und Simonides*, has taken up the sword in her defense and has shown the falseness of the attacks on her good name. There is nothing in her works, including the newly discovered fragments, to discredit the purity of her life.

Chapter VII. Sappho in Literature. The treatment of this topic is rather slight, though perhaps in keeping with the scope of the book. At the close of the chapter we have Byron's fine imitation of the 'Evening Fragment', and paraphrases, by Swinburne and Frederick Tennyson, of parts of the 'Hymn to Aphrodite'.

Although we are fortunate to have that unexcelled gem of a book, *Sappho*, by Henry Thornton Wharton, which in perfection of format, typography, taste, erudition, and bibliography is almost worthy of the Greek poetess, there still is room for a work giving a complete critical treatment of Sappho's influence on ancient and modern literature down to our own time.

Chapter VIII. The Fragments. This final chapter gives a prose translation of all the fragments included in the Hiller-Crusius edition of Bergk's *Anthologia Lyrica* (1907), under appropriate captions, and also of the new fragments, based on Edmond's text. These translations are faithful, and read easily. Without any reflection on their merit, which evince scholarship and taste, we may say that, as a whole, they seem to show that no prose rendering of Sappho can possibly give the effect of the music, simplicity, and beauty of the original.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

HENRY S. SCRIBNER

CLASSICAL ARTICLES IN NON-CLASSICAL PERIODICALS

III

School Review—Oct., Foreign Language Teaching in the High Schools of Iowa, Carl G. F. Franzen ["Latin is taught in more schools, whether singly or in combination, than any other foreign language. The number of students enrolled in Latin courses is almost four times the number studying other foreign languages". See *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 15.10].

Scientific Monthly—April, An Italian Book on Empedocles, J. Wright [a review of *I Poeti Filosofi Della Grecia*. Vol. 2, Empedocle, E. Bignone].

Scribner's Magazine—May, 1920, The Debt of Modern Art to Ancient Greece, Will H. Low.—April, A Greek Song, C. Scollard [a poem].

South Atlantic Quarterly—Oct., Why Did Plato Use Myths?, George P. Wilson; Three Chaucer Studies, Allen R. Benham [Part II is entitled Chaucer and Ovid].

Spectator—March 12, The Oresteia at Cambridge, R.

Weekly Review—March 2, In an article entitled Yale's New President, we read, "It is said that President Lowell of Harvard has recently made an earnest plea for the revival of the classics, in the belief that the neglect of the classics is threatening the overthrow of our civilization. Whether Dr. Angell concurs in that belief we cannot say. For our own part we are convinced that he would do Yale and the cause of sound education a rare service, if, in entering upon his new duties, he would add his voice to President Lowell's".—March 9, Edipo Re, Charles Henry Meltzer [under the caption Music, a criticism of the production, at the Manhattan Opera House, New York City, of the posthumous work of Leoncavallo, which condenses the Oedipus Tyrannus into one long act. "The result is an

appalling, gripping drama which demands great music. Unhappily that music was beyond the Italian master's gifts of expression".—March 23, Erring With Aristarchus, Katharine Fullerton Gerould [this essay, taking the familiar quotation as a text, deals with very modern politics. It is a very good illustration of the fact that The Weekly Review contains much more matter of interest to classicists than can be readily indicated in these columns].—April 6, An Economic History of Rome, Tenney Frank [described, in The Run of The Shelves, as a most useful supplement to the usual histories of Rome].

Yale Review—April, An Essay in the Theory of Poetry, Gilbert Murray [discusses Aristotle's 'modes of imitation', and Arnold's "criticism of life". "Poetry is *poesis* plus *mimesis*, a making or manufacturing based upon imitation"].

Youth's Companion—March 3, In Nature and Sciences Ancient Ostia [a brief paragraph, with one illustration].—March 10, David Ives, Arthur Stanwood Pier [in this installment of a serial, the author records a conversation between a poor boy, destined for the medical profession, and his Latin teacher, about Latin. The author recounts his hero's achievements in Latin, as well as his exploits on the running track].

BARNARD COLLEGE

GRACE H. GOODALE
CHARLES KNAPP

THE CLASSICAL READING LEAGUE OF NEW YORK STATE

The Classical Reading League, formed under the auspices of the Classical Association of New York State—now the Classical Section of the New York State Teachers' Association—has already completed four years of activity. Six Colleges and Universities, Union, Rochester, The College of the City of New York, Hobart, Hamilton, and Syracuse, agreed to take charge in turn, and the four first mentioned have successively managed the League. This year Hamilton assumes the task.

The Committee which now takes up the work shares the conviction which led to the organization of the Classical Reading League, that we whose privilege it is to teach the literature of ancient Greece and Rome have at hand one unfailing source of power. We may, if we will, devote at least some part of our time to broadening our own acquaintance with these great authors. If we read some new Latin or Greek every year, we freshen our own work and add to our own proficiency in the languages. Much criticism of the Classics, from friends as well as foes, is to the effect that teachers do not properly relate that civilization to our own. The surest way to gain the necessary familiarity with the Greeks and the Romans for this purpose is to read much of their writings.

Courses have been planned, for 1921-1922, in Caesar, Cicero, Petronius, Apuleius, Vergil, Lucretius, and Comedy, on the Latin side; on the Greek side, in Thucydides, Plato, Oratory, Lucian, the Septuagint, Homer, Drama, and Theocritus. Some, however, will prefer to choose for themselves outside of the proposed courses, and the Committee believes that this independence is to be encouraged. It is not so much the amount that counts as the regular reading of something new. A copy of the circular containing the list of courses, with editions and prices of the texts, will be sent to any one who is interested, upon application to the undersigned at 25 Marvin Street, Clinton, N. Y. No expense is involved beyond the purchase of a text. Applicants may enroll at

any time. Reports of finished work are due before October 1, 1922.

HAMILTON COLLEGE

DONALD BLYTHE DURHAM

FELLOWSHIPS IN THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

Three Fellowships in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens will be offered for 1922-1923.

One Fellowship is in Architecture, with a stipend of \$1,500. Information about the requirements may be obtained by addressing Professor Edward Capps, Princeton, N. J. Two Fellowships are in Greek Archaeology, each of \$1,000. These will be awarded partly on the basis of a competitive examination, which will be given March 20-22, 1922. Each candidate must take the examination in Modern Greek and in any three of the following six subjects: (1) General Greek Archaeology, (2) Greek Architecture, (3) Greek Epigraphy, (4) Pausanias, Book I, and the Topography and Monuments of Ancient Athens, (5) Greek Sculpture, and (6) Greek Vases. Application for admission to the examination must be made not later than February 1, 1922, to the Chairman of the Committee on Fellowships, Professor Samuel E. Bassett, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

LA RUE VAN HOOK

THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE ATLANTIC STATES THIRD FALL MEETING

The Third Fall Meeting of The Classical Association of the Atlantic States was held at Swarthmore College, on Saturday, November 26. Unfortunately, the program arranged in July last, and announced not only in THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 15.16 (October 10), but also in a circular issued to all members, on November 13, could not be carried out. That program was to center in a report by Dr. Mason D. Gray, of the East High School, Rochester, New York, one of the Special Investigators of the American Classical League, on certain phases of the Investigation, phases of great importance. The first intimation that the program might have to be cancelled came in a letter from Dr. Gray's Secretary, dated November 9 and received November 10, to the effect that Dr. Gray was to be in Chicago on the day of the meeting, in attendance on a session of the Special Investigators and some of the Regional Chairmen. This letter was called forth by a reminder of the engagement, sent to Dr. Gray under date of November 6. On November 13, since no word had been received from Dr. Gray himself, the circular announcing the program was issued. The circular was late, because of efforts made to induce Dr. Frank P. Graves, Commissioner of Education for the State of New York, and, when it was found that he could not be present a member of his Staff, agreed to be present at Swarthmore College to discuss Dr. Gray's paper. On November 18—only eight days before the meeting—a telegram was received from Dr. Gray, saying he would be in Chicago on the day of the meeting. Knowing the strong prejudice entertained—and rightly—against the reading of papers *in absentia*, it seemed undesirable to have a paper by Dr. Gray read in his absence by any one else; discussion of such a paper, if read in his absence, would hardly be either fair or profitable. No one else—save Professor Carr, the other Special Investigator—had the information needed for the presentation of the specific matters Dr. Gray had been invited to discuss. There was nothing to do, therefore, save to cancel the announced program. It was too late to ask any one else to step into the

breach. It was too, also, to notify the members, by a second general circular, of the cancellation of the program, even if it had seemed worth while to face the expense, and the labor, of issuing such a circular.

At the meeting there was a fair attendance, Professor Knapp read two papers: (1) Legend and History in the Aeneid, and (2) Dr. Leaf on Horace, Carmina 1.14, 1.15, and 3.3.30-56.]

C. K.

THE LOWER HUDSON CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

The Classical Section of the New York State Teachers' Association of the Lower Hudson District met on Saturday, November 12, at Vassar College, with the President, Professor Catharine Saunders, in the chair. The program was as follows: The Etruscans and Early Roman Tradition, Professor Lily R. Taylor, Vassar College; A Roman Colony in the Alps (illustrated), Miss Elizabeth D. Pierce, Vassar College; Some Parallels between Conditions in Rome in Cicero's Time and in America and the World To-day, Miss Caroline M. Locke, Mt. Vernon High School; The Triumph of the Heroic over the Economic Appeal in Italian War Posters, Professor Bruno Roselli, Vassar College; Ostia (illustrated), Professor E. H. Haight, Vassar College; Roman Remains in Provence (illustrated), Dr. Ella Bourne, Vassar College.

The program was unusually rich in illustrated papers, for Professor Haight, Dr. Bourne, and Miss Pierce had all been abroad during the past summer, and had brought back interesting pictures of Roman remains in Italy and Southern France. With Miss Pierce, the members of the Association took an imaginary trip through the Little Saint Bernard to Aosta, the ancient Augusta Praetoria, and viewed the gateway, wall, and memorial arch of the city which Augustus planned for the defense of Italy at one of the most strategic points. Miss Haight sketched the history of Ostia, the port of Rome, and then showed pictures of the city wall, theater, baths, tombs, and private houses, pointing out the significant differences between the large apartment houses found at Ostia and the familiar Pompeian house. Miss Bourne conducted her hearers through the old Roman forum, the amphitheater, and the 'Elysian Fields' of Arles, the theater of Orange, and the massive Pont du Gard, ending with a picture of the exquisite Maison Carrée at Nîmes, a temple that dates from the Augustan Age.

The other papers were of special interest because of their historical connections. Professor Taylor summed up what is known of the origin, civilization, and language of the Etruscans, and showed that archaeological evidence seems to vindicate many ancient traditions—such as Herodotus's story that the Etruscans came from Lydia, and the statement of early historians that Rome was once an Etruscan city. Miss Locke spoke on modern parallels to conditions in Cicero's time, citing details from the public life of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Wilson which resembled incidents referred to in Cicero's Orations and Letters, and pointing out that modern appeals to voters at an election, recent riots against tax collectors in Russia and Spain, and the economic questions that have arisen since the Great War all had their parallels in ancient times. Professor Roselli, of the Department of Italian at Vassar College, showed how the classical tradition persists in Italy to-day, and how the strongest appeal of the Italian war posters in the Great War was based either on the former glories of States like Venice or on the glorious past of ancient Rome.

Professor Lily R. Taylor, of Vassar College, was elected President for the coming year, Miss Jewell,

of Newburgh, Vice-President, and Miss Tobin, of the Poughkeepsie High School, Secretary-Treasurer.

VASSAR COLLEGE

CATHERINE SAUNDERS

THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The first meeting of The Classical Club of Philadelphia for 1921-1922 was held on Friday, November 11, with thirty-two members present. Eight new members were elected, the largest accession thus far to the Club at any one time. Two papers were presented. First, Dr. Albert W. Barker discussed Women's Chitons of the Fifth and Fourth Centuries B. C., with the aid of illustrative material, consisting of slides of statuary, reliefs, vase-paintings, and chitons made in accordance with the information thus gained, and worn by the living model. He also showed chitons draped on life-sized card models. Dr. Barker treated most interestingly all the sources of information and the various styles in chitons throughout these centuries. Professor George D. Hadzsits then read a paper of great interest on Latin Instruction of the Future, in which he dealt very radically with the present traditional Secondary School curriculum in Latin. In fact, it might be said that he scrapped it. He did not, however, leave Caesar out in the cold world; Caesar is far too mighty a figure in history for that to be done. But in the second year, for the exclusive reading of Caesar's Gallic War Professor Hadzsits would substitute Caesar's life by Suetonius, together with selections from other writers treating of the man, his deeds, his character, and his times, with their life and manners, and, finally, important and significant passages from Caesar's own writings. This is a radical program, necessitating the complete recasting of first year text-books; for it is almost axiomatic that the vocabulary gained in the first year must serve as a portion of the working capital for the reading matter of the second year. A similar treatment was forecast for third and fourth year work, but Professor Hadzsits did not go into detail. Very decidedly this paper gave food for thought.

B. W. MITCHELL, Secretary

THE WASHINGTON CLASSICAL CLUB

On Saturday afternoon, October 29, The Washington Classical Club opened the present season by a meeting held at the Public Library. Professor Roy J. Deferrari, of The Catholic University of America, read a scholarly and valuable paper on The Art of Letter Writing Among the Greeks. He indicated the literary and chronological range of Greek epistolography; emphasized the difference between the literary and the non-literary type; and showed the importance of studying both (but especially the latter), not only as regards language and style, but also for the light that would be thrown by such study upon history, biography, and social conditions. The interest which the paper aroused was evidenced by several requests that Professor Deferrari would, at a later meeting, give a more detailed discussion of some particular collection of letters, such as those of St. Basil, or those of St. Gregory of Nazianus.

The President of the Club, Miss Mildred Dean, of Central High School, gave an attractive outline of the plans for the rest of the season; and the Secretary, Miss Mabel C. Hawes, of Eastern High School, announced that General Tasker H. Bliss had been elected to membership in the Club.

(Continued on page 81)